



Office of the National Ombudsman

Regulatory Fairness Forum for Small Business

Tuesday, April 1, 2008

Columbia, South Carolina

Small business owners will have an opportunity to discuss issues regarding Federal regulatory compliance and enforcement during this forum.

Have you or a small business owner you know been unfairly fined or penalized by a Federal government agency, or is a Federal agency enforcement action imminent?

WHO: **SBA National Ombudsman Nicholas Owens** and members of the Region IV Regulatory Fairness Board will hear issues and comments about federal regulatory enforcement and compliance actions. Small business owners, representatives of trade associations and community and business leaders are invited to participate, comment about compliance and enforcement of regulations by federal agencies and to learn more about the impact of federal regulations on small businesses.

WHAT: To create a more cooperative regulatory environment among federal agencies and small businesses, Congress has directed the SBA and the National Ombudsman to hold Regulatory Fairness forums. In many instances, the National Ombudsman's actions on behalf of small businesses have resulted in federal agencies reducing or waiving penalties and/or compliance actions in cases of unfair or excessive regulatory enforcement.

WHERE: **2008 Salute to Small Business**
Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center
Richland A Meeting Room
1101 Lincoln Street
Columbia, SC 29201

WHEN: **Tuesday, April 1, 2008**
1:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Members of the small business community, trade organizations and media are encouraged to attend. RSVPs should be made to the South Carolina District Office at (803) 765-5373, or by email to susan.chavis@sba.gov before the forum. Small business owners or representatives unable to attend can contact the National Ombudsman for further assistance.

If you are interested in participating in the full Salute to Small Business Awards program, please register with the South Carolina Chamber. The registration form can be located at: <http://www.scchamber.net/docs/Events/2008SaluteRegFormdisclaimers.pdf>.

For additional information, visit the Office of the National Ombudsman's website at www.sba.gov/ombudsman, or call José Méndez at (202) 205-6178.



Make Your Voice Heard!



All of the SBA's programs and services are provided to the public on a nondiscriminatory basis. Reasonable arrangements for persons with disabilities will be made, if requested at least 2 weeks in advance. Contact: Susan Chavis, 803.765.5373